

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A disk drive comprising:

a head configured to read recorded data from  
a disk medium;

5 a read channel configured to reproduce data from  
a read signal which is output from the head,

a command unit configured to instruct a copying  
operation for allowing the data which is reproduced  
by the read channel to be transferred to an external  
10 device;

an interface unit configured to effect a data  
transfer relative to the external device; and

a control unit configured to, in accordance with  
a copying operation instructed by the command unit,  
15 perform the copying operation while allowing the  
reproduced data to be transferred to the external  
device through the interface unit.

2. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein  
the command unit includes a register configured to  
20 hold copying operation instructing information.

3. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein  
the command unit includes a register configured to  
hold copying operation instructing information and  
an input device configured to input the information.

25 4. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein  
the control unit performs a normal read operation for  
reading data from the disk medium or a normal write

operation for writing data onto the disk medium and,  
when the copying operation is instructed by the  
command unit, performs the copying operation in  
preference to the normal read operation or write  
5 operation.

5. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein  
the command unit includes a register configured to  
hold the copying operation instructing information  
and, by referring to the register at a predetermined  
10 timing, the control unit performs the copying  
operation in accordance with the information set by  
the register.

6. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein,  
when the copying operation is performed, the control  
15 unit issues a command for allowing the reproduced data  
to be written into a recording medium in the external  
device and transfers the reproduced data to the  
external device through the interface unit.

7. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein,  
20 before performing the copying operation, the control  
unit makes a data transmit request for the external  
device via the interface unit and performs the copying  
operation upon receipt of a response to the transmit  
request which comes from the external device.

25 8. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein  
the interface unit includes a register configured to  
hold the copying operation instructing information and

the register holds the information input from an input unit in the command unit and is accessed from the control unit.

5           9. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein,  
in a copying source disk drive connected to an external interface unit of a host system and connected via an internal interface signal line of the host system to a copying destination disk drive, the interface unit is connected to the external interface  
10           unit in accordance with a copying operation by the control unit to transmit the reproduced data to the copying destination drive.

15           10. A method of transferring data read from a disk medium to an external device in a disk drive, the method comprising:

              receiving a copying operation command;  
              conducting a communication with the external  
device as a copying destination device in accordance with the copying operation command; and  
20           transferring data which is read out from the disk medium to the external device when a communication link is established to the external device.

              11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the disk drive has an input unit configured to input  
25           the copying operation instructing information and a register configured to hold that information, further comprising when the information is set to the

register, receiving the copying operation command.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein the  
conducting comprises making a transmit request for  
the external device, and which further comprises  
5 establishing the communication link to the external  
device in accordance with a response from the external  
device.

13. A method according to claim 10, further  
comprising transmitting a command for instructing the  
10 writing of the data to a recording medium in the  
external device, when the read-out data is transferred  
to the external device connected as a copying  
destination.

14. A method according to claim 10, wherein the  
15 transferring comprises transferring data from the disk  
medium to another disk drive as the external device  
via an interface unit for connecting with the external  
device based on a predetermined interface standard.

15. A method according to claim 14, further  
20 comprising, when the data read from the disk medium is  
to be transferred in accordance with the copying  
operation command, transferring a command for  
instructing the writing of the data on a disk medium  
included in the copying destination disk drive.